



Foto: Swiss Red Cross

Positive Motherhood – Opportunities and challenges of HIV prevention, treatment and care

Worldwide, around 1 per cent of pregnant women are HIV-positive; 95 per cent live in developing countries. If an HIV-positive woman becomes pregnant, there is a 35 per cent chance that she will transmit the virus to her child if no preventative action is taken. More than 700,000 children become HIV-positive via vertical HIV transmission. However, this is preventable.

Every woman, every man must be guaranteed the right to decide whether and when to have children, irrespective of their HIV status. For many pregnant women, it is when seeking antenatal care that they learn about their HIV status. It is also the time and opportunity for HIV information, prevention, treatment and care of the women and their family members.

What are the challenges and opportunities of voluntary counselling and testing in antenatal care and of prevention of vertical HIV transmission? What are the criteria for breastfeeding by positive mothers and/or supplying infant formula? What is the impact of socio-cultural significance of motherhood on HIV prevention and care? These are some of the issues which will be explored at the conference, looking at them from a socio-cultural as well as a medical perspective, reflecting on theory and practice.

We invite partners of aidsfocus.ch and representatives of Swiss NGOs working in international cooperation as well as of any other interested institution. The conference will be held in English.

Program

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 9.00 | Arrival, coffee and tea |
| 9.15 | Welcome by Helena Zweifel, coordinator aidsfocus.ch |
| | Dr. Claudia Kessler Bodiang, Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel Positive motherhood – A global overview on challenges and opportunities |
| | Marleene Dermaut, Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland, Bruxelles Prevention, care, treatment and support for HIV positive women, their infants and their families. Experiences from Mozambique |
| | Lida Lhotska, International Baby Food Food Action Network (IBFAN), Geneva Infant feeding: Supporting mothers to make informed choices |
| | Dr. Saskia Walentowitz, Social Anthropologist, Bern Social anthropological perspectives on vertical transmission of HIV |
| | Annet Biryetega, National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (NACWOLA), Uganda Coping with stigma of positive motherhood. The experience of NACWOLA |
| 12.30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14.00 | Working Groups on key issues |
| 15.30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 16.00– 17.00 | Where to go from here: Key messages and commitments Plenary and Farewell |

Further information: www.aidsfocus.ch

Venue: Kornhausforum, Kornhausplatz 18, 3011 Bern, <http://www.kornhausforum.ch>

Conference fee: For partners of aidsfocus.ch: CHF 50.-. Others: CHF 80.-

Coordination: Helena Zweifel, aidsfocus.ch, Medicus Mundi Schweiz

Advisory group: Emma Amadó (Médecins Sans Frontières), Thomas Gass (SolidarMed), Monika Kaempf (Swiss Red Cross), Michèle Morier-Genou (EPER), Rebecca Norton (Terre des Hommes Foundation), Helen Prytherch (Swiss Tropical Institute).

The conference is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)

Registration for the aidsfocus.ch conference 2007

Name

Organisation

Address

E-mail

Please send back your registration by April 10, 2007, by mail or by e-mail to: Helena Zweifel, Medicus Mundi Switzerland, Murbacherstrasse 34, 4013 Basel, or: info@aidfocus.ch. Your participation will be confirmed.